

(*Tringa nebularia*), Malabar Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros coronatus*), Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark (*Eremopterix grisea*) and Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta castanea*). We also sighted the Spot-billed Pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*) during January 2001 near Periyar lake and the Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*), Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and Purple Moorhen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) during February 2003 in a small wetland near the forest check post at Thekkady. The new additions bring the total bird

species found in the Periyar Tiger Reserve to 322.

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14. OCCURRENCE OF THE TWO-SPOT GOURAMI *TRICHOGASTER TRICHOPTERUS* (PALLAS) IN PORUR, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Introductions, intentional or accidental, of exotic species of plants and animals into other countries or continents are not uncommon. This has sometimes resulted in the domination of exotic species over native ones, and among fish, the case of the food fish Mozambique Tilapia *Oreochromis mossambica* is well known.

In this note, I report the occurrence of the Two-spot Gourami *Trichogaster trichopterus* (Pallas), a native of Thailand, Malaysia, IndoChina and Indonesia (Hervey and Hems 1966; Dawnes 1998), in the wild in the suburbs of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, which is probably the first record of the species in Indian waters. I recorded good numbers of this species in drying pools in a low-lying residential area in Porur, a suburb to the west of Chennai after the northeast monsoon of 2002 and 2003. This area forms the drainage areas of the runoff of the waters of Porur Lake, a small lake that meets a part of the water requirements of Chennai.

Chennai is one of the major distribution and breeding centres of aquarium fish in India and the occurrence of the Two-spot Gourami in Chennai waters is probably an accidental or intentional outcome of ornamental fish culture. The record of the species in Porur poses two main questions. Does the species also occur in other areas of Chennai and what is the impact of the species on native species? With the spread of ornamental fish culture in India, especially in recent times, Indian waters will probably witness the entry of more exotic fish species.

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15. EXTENSION OF RANGE OF *NEMACHEILUS KERALENSIS* (RITA & NALBANT) AND *PUNTIUS OPHICEPHALUS* (RAJ) TO RIVER MEENACHIL, KERALA (INDIA)

The rivers of Kerala harbour a rich and diversified fish fauna (Day 1875-1878; Pillai 1929; John 1936; Hora and Law 1941; Raj 1941; Chacko 1948; Silas 1951). However, little information is available on the present status of the fresh water fishes of Kerala, which are prone to various types of

threats such as over exploitation, introduction of exotic species, habitat destruction and pollution. The Travancore region in the southern Western Ghats of Kerala has been noted for its richness in number and variety of fresh water fish. The fresh water fish fauna of this geographical region is